(c) It is proposed to construct archival facilities of international standards within the existing complex of Films Division at Mumbai for storage of archival material.

Programmes Based on Different Religions

2112. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is telecasting programmes based on different religions of the country;

(b) if so, the programmes telecast during the last one year, religion-wise; and

(c) whether justice has been done to all religions, if so, the time allocated for such programmes, religion-wise on the national network during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that no programme is telecast making religion as a base. Only functions of various religions are covered and telecast.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no fixed time slots are allotted for coverage of religious functions/events. However, justice is done to all religions to the extent possible, by providing appropriate coverage to their important functions.

Educational Channel on Doordarshan

2113. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a working Group in Education Department under HRD Ministry and a Sub-Committee under Prasar Bharati to formulate policy guidelines and other related matters to launch a separate educational channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and present status of the report of the working Group/Sub-Committee.

(c) details of decision taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are considering launching a separate entertainment - cum - educational channel for children on priority basis and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) The matter relating to setting up a separate Educational Channel was earlier being examined by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Doordarshan in consultation with the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, Prasar Bharati are examining the matter afresh. They have set up a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Romila Thaper to formulate policy guidelines and other related matters to launch a separate Educational Channel. Two meetings of the Sub-Committee have been held on 12-13 February 1998 (1st meeting) and 24th March, 1998 (2nd meeting). Prasar Bharati have intimated that a decision with regard to the likely date of starting the Educational Channel can be taken only after the preliminary work on the recommendations contained in the minutes of the two meetings of the Sub-Committee is completed. It has further been intimated by Prasar Bharati that tentatively they are working on start of the Educational Channel by 2002.

(d) No, Sir.

Regional News Bulletin in Assamese/ Mising Language

2114. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans for starting regional news bulletin in Assamese and Mising language from AIR and Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh in Assam;

(b) the time by which these are likely to be commissioned;

(c) the reasosn for very poor quality coverage by Dibrugarh at Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Sibsagar and Goalaghat districts and steps taken to improve by means other than LPTs;